GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1614
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF DESERT DISTRICTS
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme prepared for the development of desert districts of Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide facilities to desert districts on the lines of hilly areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the same are likely to be provided?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A.NARENDRA)

(a) The Desert Development Programme(DDP) is already being implemented in project mode on watershed basis, in 75 blocks of 10 desert districts of Rajasthan with the objective of controlling desertification through various activities of natural resource regeneration as provided in the Guidelines for Watershed Development. The total arid area identified for treatment in these districts is 185.047 lakh hectares.

(b)to(d) The watershed projects (of 500 hect.each) have a uniform cost norm of Rs.6000/- per hectare for both the hot desert and cold desert regions. So far, 3129 watershed projects have been sanctioned to desert districts of Rajasthan. However, in view of the typical geographical conditions prevailing in these regions, Ministry of Rural Development, besides normal watershed projects, has also been sanctioning special projects for these areas. Accordingly, 2780 Special projects have additionally been sanctioned to desert districts of Rajasthan for sand dune stabilization, shelterbelt plantations and afforestation. Under special projects, the cost per hectare of these activities is fixed as per the scheduled rates approved by the State Government of Rajasthan.